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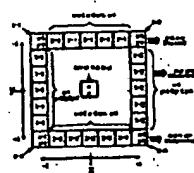
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**(54) WATER RING SCAN DEVICE AND METHOD AND IMAGE CODING/DECODING APPARATUS AND
METHOD USING THE SAME**

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: A water ring scan device and method and an image coding/decoding apparatus and method using the water ring scan device are provided to transmit image information suitably for the human visual system, thereby obtaining excellent picture quality.



CONSTITUTION: A water ring scan device includes a water ring scan starting means, a water ring scan position determining means, and a water ring scanning means. The water ring scan starting means starts water ring scanning from a position at which water ring is generated, that is a visually important specific image portion to be scanned preferentially. The water ring scan position determining means determines a water ring scan position in the form of enclosing the water ring generated position with a square ring, and then determines the next water ring scan position in the form of enclosing the square ring with another square ring. The water ring scanning means for performing water ring scanning according to the water ring scan positions determined by the water ring scan position determining means.

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